



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Horse of the Sun Ranch Handline Construction Training Site		
PROJECT LOCATION	Approx. 2 miles NW of Pine Valley, CA. Sec. 26, T15S, R4E, SBBM Descanso 7.5' Quadrangle	COUNTY	San Diego
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Eric Just, Unit Forester		
ADDRESS	2249 Jamacha Road El Cajon, CA 92019	PHONE	(619) 590-3103

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed training project includes approximately 1,500 feet of trail construction on lands owned by Horse of the Sun Ranch in the vicinity of Pine Valley, CA. Horse of the Sun Ranch serves as a non-profit organization principally focused on providing equestrian and nature-based programs to military families and underserved youth. Project activities will be completed entirely by CAL FIRE hand crews and will include the cutting and removal of brush by hand up to a width of 8 feet along the designated hand line location as well as a 2-4 foot wide scrape in the center where all combustible material will be removed. Vegetative material generated from project activities will be lopped, quartered, or bucked, and broadcast back on site.

EXEMPTION STATUS

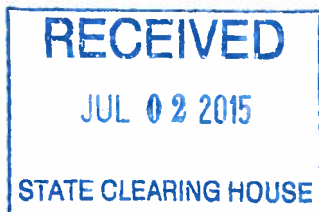
- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4/Section 15304: Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under the description for a Class 4 Categorical Exemption pertaining to minor alterations to land as identified in the CEQA Guidelines. After completing an environmental analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, a CNDDB search, greenhouse gas emission calculations, and an archaeological review completed by CAL FIRE Resource Management staff.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at the MVU Unit Headquarters in El Cajon.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



Duane Shintaku 6/30/15
Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection